



NEWS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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NEBRASKA CATTLE INVENTORY DOWN 3 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

LINCOLN, Neb., January 31, 2003 - All cattle and calves on hand January 1, 2003, in Nebraska totaled 6.2 million head, down 3 percent from a year ago and 6 percent below 2001 according to the USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. This is the fifth consecutive year of declining inventory and the smallest inventory since 1995.

All cows on hand January 1, at 2 million head, were equal to last year but 1 percent below two years ago. The 2002 calf crop totaled 1.82 million head, equal to 2001 but 1 percent below 2000. Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots on January 1 were 2.26 million head down 5 percent from last year and 11 percent below two years ago.

The number of cattle operations during 2002 in Nebraska totaled 25,000, down 1,000 from the previous year and 2,000 less than 2000. Operations with beef cows totaled 22,000, equal to last year but down 1,000 operations from 2000.

U.S. CATTLE INVENTORY DOWN 1 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1 2003, totaled 96.1 million head, 1 percent below the 96.7 million a year ago and 1 percent below the 97.3 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.1 million , were down slightly from the 42.2 million on January 1, 2002 and down 1 percent from two years ago. The 2002 calf crop was estimated at 38.2 million head, down slightly from 2001 and down 1 percent from 2000. Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots on January 1 were 12.9 million head down 7 percent from last year.

The number of cattle operations during 2002 in the U.S. totaled 1.03 million, down 2 percent from the previous year and 4 percent below 2000. Operations with beef cows were down 1percent from 2001 and 3percent below 2000.

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/livestock/pct-bb/catl0103.pdf>

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